

Subject: Update on L.A. Street Vending

Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 at 5:04:37 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Jessica Borek

To: Jessica Borek

Hello —

Thank you to those who came out to City Hall yesterday in support of our coalition. Also, thank you for the weeks and months of meetings, letters, phone calls and advocacy. Your efforts have truly made a difference!

The Economic Development Committee ordered the CLA's office to spend more time analyzing the [three suggested models](#), and members seem to favor a hybrid system — a program that combines citywide vending with specific vending zones. The Committee also instructed the CLA to form a working group (businesses/groups, vending advocates, and city agencies) to hammer out the details of a program.

All in all, it was a good day for us but our work is not done. There are still opportunities ahead with the working group, and with the City Council, to shape the policy.

Below, please find a media clip on the hearing, and please stay tuned for updates! If you have questions or concerns, I can always be reached on my cell: 202-306-8938.

Best,
Jessica

[LA city committee wants more details before moving forward on legal street vending](#) (KPCC) October 27, 2015

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Los Angeles city officials took a tiny step toward legalized street vending Tuesday afternoon, asking for more details on how a sidewalk vending program would work — but it's still going to be a long time before street vendors can sell their wares legally in the city, if they ever can.

Members of the city's Economic Development Committee heard a new city report that outlined three possible options for a street vending program: a citywide program, specific vending districts or a hybrid combination of the two that would let different communities decide how they want to manage street vending.

The report was presented by the Chief Legislative Analyst's Office on the heels of months' worth of community meetings held by the city to gather public input.

After more than an hour of additional public input Tuesday, committee members decided they'll need more details before they make a move.

"Let's see what the options are before we talk about changing the rules," said City Council member Curren Price, who chairs the Economic Development Committee.

The committee ordered the Chief Legislative Analyst's Office and several other city agencies to report back on details: How vendors would be permitted, where vendors would be placed, how police would enforce them and so forth.

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, who sits on the committee, said he wanted more details on how a hybrid model would be structured. But other city officials pointed out that a citywide policy would likely be less expensive.

Krekorian characterized the report and the meeting as "a step forward."

"We have already taken a number of steps forward," Krekorian said.

Street vendor advocates, who'd rallied outside City Hall before the meeting, said afterward that they were frustrated with slow progress; city officials have been debating whether to legalize street vending since last year.

Janet Favela of the East Los Angeles Community Corporation looked on the bright side.

"At least they didn't say no," Favela said.

The last time the city came close to legalizing street vending was in the 1990s, when a street vending district was set up in MacArthur Park. It eventually flopped, in large part because the legal street vendors inside the park were being undercut by unpermitted vendors outside.

Street vendor advocates have pushed for a citywide policy, without specific districts.

"I want to caution around the opt-in, opt-out policy," said Rudy Espinoza, a street vendor advocate who directs a nonprofit called the Leadership for Urban Renewal Network. "We need leadership. We don't want a patchwork policy here."

But there's strong opposition to a citywide plan, especially from merchants in some commercial zones like downtown L.A.

"There is not enough budget or manpower to enforce the problems that exist already," said Patti Berman of the Downtown L.A. Neighborhood Council, who spoke at the meeting. "We want to make sure that nothing is made legal until the illegal can be taken care of. All that will do is add to the problem."

Street vendors also spoke. Some addressed the brick-and-mortar opposition.

"I would love to have my brick-and-mortar one day," said street vendor Deborah Hyman, who makes jewelry that she sells in Leimert Park. "I want to be there one day, too, but in the meantime, I'm a proud street vendor. Please support me."

No date was set for when city agencies — including the City Attorney's Office, the Bureau of Street Services, the police and fire departments — are to report back to the committee.

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